

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SCI-06 NIC-01 CU-05 IO-14 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /147 W
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R 071510Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5715

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, MT, UR

SUBJ: VISIT BY SOVIET OFFICIALS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF MALTESE-
SOVIET CULTURAL AND FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

MR. ANATOL MASKO, HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT OF THE
"FEDERATION OF THE UNIONS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION,"
AND MR. EUGENE LAGUTIN, SOVIET JOURNALIST, VISITED MALTA
JULY 23-27 IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
MALTESE-SOVIET CULTURAL AND FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. THE TWO
OFFICIALS WERE INVITED BY THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE CUL-
TURAL GROUP FOR FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MALTA AND THE SOVIET
UNION "TO INCREASE THE TIES OF FREINDSHIP BETWEEN THE MALTESE
PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION." IN ADDITION TO
MEETING VARIOUS MALTESE AND TOURING THE ISLAND, THE TWO
SOVIET OFFICIALS HELD MORE FORMAL MEETINGS WITH THE
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE GENERAL
WORKERS' UNION, AND VARIOUS LEFTIST POLITICAL
ORGANIZATIONS. A RECEPTION WAS HELD FOR THEM AT THE
HOTEL PHOENICA FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN MEETING THE
TWO SOVIET OFFICIALS AND WAS MODERATELY WELL ATTENDED.
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE IS MR. GERALD
AZZOPARDI, ALONE-TIME MALTA LABOUR PARTY SUPPORTER.

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COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE ARRIVAL OF THE TWO SOVIET OFFICIALS

HAD BEEN EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME, PRESS COVERAGE WAS
EXTREMELY LIMITED AND THEY APPARENTLY DID NOT MEET WITH
ANY MALTESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.TUCKER

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